

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01759 261129Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CU-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 /034 W

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R 261105Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4873

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 1759

NEA/INS FOR TELLEEN; L/EB FOR TRIMBLE FROM FISCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, NP

SUBJ: AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL EVEREST EXPEDITION

FOLLOWING LETTER RECEIVED FROM CHRIS BONNINGTON RE AMERICAN
EXPEDITION. FULL TEXT WILL BE POUCHED BUT FOLLOWING
EXCERPTS ARE RELEVANT TO YOUR PLANNING OPERATIONS.

QUOTE: THE AMERICAN PLAN SOUNDS INTERESTING. I THINK
THEY COULD AFFORD TO START EVEN A WEEK OR SO EARLIER
THAN OURSELVES. IF THE WEATHER PROVED UNSUITABLE THEY
COULD ALWAYS SIT AROUND AND WAIT FOR CONDITIONS TO IMPROVE.
THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, HOWEVER, THAT FOR A FAIRLY
LIGHT EXPEDITION THEY WANT THOSE WINDLESS, MONSOON DAYS
HIGHER UP THE MOUNTAIN. I HAD THOUGHT OF THE POSSIBILITY
OF PUSHING STRAIGHT UP THE ICEFALL AND LETTING IT CLOSE
BEHIND ME IN MY OWN ORIGINAL LIGHTWEIGHT CAPSUL STYLE
EXPEDITION. CERTAINLY THIS IS THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY OF
AVOIDING A LARGE EXPEDITION. AS YOU RIGHTLY SAY, THOUGH,
THERE IS THE DANGER THAT IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR DISASTER
THEY COULD BE SO TIRED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO
FORCE BACK DOWN THE ICEFALL. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD BE GOING
DOWNHILL IN A SINGLE PUSH, PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENT OF
A CRISIS AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO ABANDON THEIR GEAR.
THERE IS ALSO THE THOUGHT THAT BY CLOSING THE ICEFALL
BEHIND YOU AND THEREFORE NOT HAVING A CONSTANT PASSAGE
OF CLIMBERS AND SHERPAS TO KEEP IT OPEN, YOU ARE REDUCING
THE LIKELIHOOD OF ACCIDENTS. I SHOULD BE INCLINED TO
RECOMMEND THEM TO JUST CLOSE THE ICEFALL AND HAVE DONE

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WITH IT. UNQUOTE. EAVES

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: CASC, NP
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